

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were pending in this application. This Amendment cancels claims 2 and 3 and amends claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 20, 24, and 25. Therefore, claims 1 and 4-28 remain in this application.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that the subject matter of claims 3, 7, 9-11, 15, 17, 19, and 20 define over the prior art of record. The subject matter of claim 3 has been incorporated into claims 1, 24, and 25, and claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, and 20 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 10 and 11 depend from amended independent claim 9 or a subsequent dependent claim.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for anticipation by French Patent No. 2 766 884 to Ludger (hereinafter "the Ludger patent").

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3. The Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claim 3 defined over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicant believes that amended claim 1 now defines over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 has been cancelled, thus, rendering the rejection to claim 2 moot. Claims 4-6 and 21-23 depend from and add further limitations to amended independent claim 1 or a subsequent dependent claim and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with amended independent claim 1. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 4-6 and 21-23 is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by U.S. Patent No. 4,528,728 to Schmidt et al. (hereinafter "the Schmidt patent").

Independent claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3. The Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claim 3 defined over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicant believes that amended claim 25 now defines over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 25 is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-27 depend from and add further limitations to amended independent claim 25 or a subsequent dependent claim and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with amended independent claim 25. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 26-27 is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 12-14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over the Ludger patent in view of European Patent No. 0 318 742 to Bonaiti.

Claims 8, 12-14, and 16 depend from and add further limitations to amended independent claim 1 or a subsequent dependent claim and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with amended independent claim 1. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 8, 12-14, and 16 is respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over the Ludger patent in view of German Patent No. 197 32 204 to Herzog (hereinafter "the Herzog patent").

Claims 12 and 18 depend from and add further limitations to amended independent claim 1 or a subsequent dependent claim and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with amended independent claim 1. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 12 and 18 is respectfully requested.

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over the Ludger patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 229,137 to Jenkins (hereinafter "the Jenkins patent").

Independent claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3. The Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claim 3 defined over the prior art of record. Thus, the Applicant believes that amended claim 24 now defines over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 3,827,746 to Byers (hereinafter "the Byers patent") in view of the Schmidt patent.

Claim 28 depends from and adds further limitations to amended independent claim 25 and is believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with amended independent claim 25. Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 28 is respectfully requested.

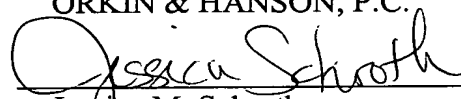
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant believes that claims 1 and 4-28 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 1 and 4-28 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT APPLICATION
SERIAL NO.: 09/922,496
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 3265-011266

RECEIVED
FEB 12 2003
GROUP 3600

The marked-up version of amended claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 20, 24, and 26 is as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A karabiner comprising a generally C-shaped body having free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween, and a gate for closing the gap, the gate being formed of a wire member shaped and located on one free end of the body, such that the gate is constrained to close the gap and an other free end of the body having a slot for receiving a shaped end of the gate,

wherein the gate is formed by the wire that is bent double and has each free end further bent inwards towards the other to locate in a different hole on opposite sides of the one free end of the body, one hole being above the other, and

wherein from the one free end of the body, the two strands of the wire are bent towards each other to approximately a mid-point of the gate until they overlap in a plane of the body.

7. (Twice Amended) [The karabiner as claimed in claim 2,] A karabiner comprising a generally C-shaped body having free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween, and a gate for closing the gap, the gate being formed of a wire member shaped and located on one free end of the body, such that the gate is constrained to close the gap and an other free end of the body having a slot for receiving a shaped end of the gate,

wherein the gate is formed by the wire that is bent double and has each free end further bent inwards towards the other to locate in a different hole on opposite sides of the one free end of the body, one hole being above the other, and

wherein a loop formed where the wire is bent double has a shaped nut that can locate in the slot of the other free end of the body.

9. (Twice Amended) [The karabiner as claimed in claim 1,] A karabiner comprising a generally C-shaped body having free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween, and a gate for closing the gap, the gate being formed of a wire member shaped and located on one free end of the body, such that the gate is constrained to close the gap and an other free end of the body having a slot for receiving a shaped end of the gate,

wherein the slot has from the other end of the body a first narrow part to accommodate the wire gate leading to a wider second part to accommodate the shaped end of the gate.

15. (Twice Amended) [The karabiner as claimed in claim 12,] A karabiner comprising a generally C-shaped body having free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween, and a gate for closing the gap, the gate being formed of a wire member shaped and located on one free end of the body, such that the gate is constrained to close the gap and an other free end of the body having a slot for receiving a shaped end of the gate,

wherein one of the gate and the other end of the body carry additional locking means for when the gate is closed, and

wherein a locking ring is mounted rotatably on the other end of the body, the ring having a slot therein, whereby in one position the gate can pass through the slot of the ring for its shaped end to locate in the slot of the other end of the body and then by rotating the ring, the slot therein is no longer accessible to the gate.

17. (Twice Amended) [The karabiner as claimed in claim 16,] A karabiner comprising a generally C-shaped body having free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween, and a gate for closing the gap, the gate being formed of a wire member shaped and located on one free end of the body, such that the gate is constrained to close the gap and an other free end of the body having a slot for receiving a shaped end of the gate,

wherein one of the gate and the other end of the body carry additional locking means for when the gate is closed,

wherein the gate is provided with a slidable locking member, and

wherein the locking member is slidable upwards when the gate is closed, the locking member having a finger that extends over the opposite side of the body to that of the slot opening to prevent the gate being pushed open.

19. (Twice Amended) [The karabiner as claimed in claim 18,] A karabiner comprising a generally C-shaped body having free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween, and a gate for closing the gap, the gate being formed of a wire member shaped and located on one free end of the body, such that the gate is constrained to close the gap and an other free end of the body having a slot for receiving a shaped end of the gate, and

having a locking pin that is insertable through the other free end of the body of the karabiner and into or through the end of the gate to prevent it being pushed open,
wherein one of the gate and the other end of the body carry additional locking means for when the gate is closed, and
wherein the locking pin is on a flexible or spring-biased tab attached to the gate.

20. (Twice Amended) [The karabiner as claimed in claim 18,] A karabiner comprising a generally C-shaped body having free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween, and a gate for closing the gap, the gate being formed of a wire member shaped and located on one free end of the body, such that the gate is constrained to close the gap and an other free end of the body having a slot for receiving a shaped end of the gate, and

having a locking pin that is insertable through the other free end of the body of the karabiner and into or through the end of the gate to prevent it being pushed open,

wherein one of the gate and the other end of the body carry additional locking means for when the gate is closed, and

wherein the pin is rotatably mounted in the slot of the other free end of the body between a first position wherein a lip on the end of the pin can pass through a loop of the wire gate and a second position wherein the lip retains the loop of the gate in the slot.

24. (Twice Amended) A karabiner comprising a generally C-shaped body having free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween and a spring-biased gate for closing the gap located on one free end of the body and the other free end having a wire cage thereon for receiving the gate,

wherein the gate is formed by a wire that is bent double and from the one free end of the body, two strands of the wire are bent towards each other to approximately a mid-point of the gate until they overlap in a plane of the body.

25. (Twice Amended) A karabiner comprising a generally[,] C-shaped body having free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween and a spring-biased gate for closing the gap located on one free end of the body and means for locking the gate in a closed position,

wherein the gate is formed by a wire that is bent double and from the one free end of the body, two strands of the wire are bent towards each other to approximately a mid-point of the gate until they overlap in a plane of the body.